

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended. The term "parallel" in the previously pending claims described the direction of the longitudinal fibers. This has been clarified in the amended claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected as unpatentable over BROWN 5,315,948 in view of BAUDET 6,302,044. Claim 1 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The amended claims define a sail with a fabric with transverse and longitudinal fibers resistive to compression and local buckling, where the compression resistive longitudinal fibers are parallel to a luff of the sail and the transverse and longitudinal fibers are incorporated between two films. Neither BROWN nor BAUDET discloses or suggests these fibers that are resistive to compression and thus amended claims 1-2 avoid this rejection.

BROWN discloses a luff pad that is made of sail fabric and foam (abstract), which are not resistive to compression. BAUDET discloses reinforcement elements 24, 26 that are fibers, which are also not resistive to compression. Indeed, both references are silent about providing longitudinal and transverse fibers in the sail fabric that resist compression and one of

skill in the art would not learn of the claimed fibers that resist compression from these references.

Claims 1-3 were rejected as unpatentable over CRALL 3,749,043 in view of BAUDET. Claim 1 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested. CRALL is also silent about the longitudinal and transverse fibers in the sail fabric that resist compression and one of skill in the art would not learn of the claimed fibers that resist compression from these references. Accordingly, claims 1-3 avoid this rejection under §103.

Claim 4 was rejected as unpatentable over CRALL in view of BAUDET and KETTERMAN 6,892,660. KETTERMAN does not make up for the deficiencies of CRALL and BAUDET just noted (the battens are in a sail in KETTERMAN that is not wound on a reel and the battens are not parallel to a luff of the sail) and thus claim 4 avoids the rejection.

Claims 5 and 7 were rejected as unpatentable over CRALL in view of BAUDET and SHAPLAND 4,269,134. SHAPLAND also does not describe the longitudinal and transverse fibers in the sail fabric that resist compression and one of skill in the art would not learn of the claimed fibers that resist compression from these references. Accordingly, claims 5 and 7 avoid this rejection under §103.

Art was not applied against claims 6 and 8 and it is presumed that these claims include patentable subject matter.

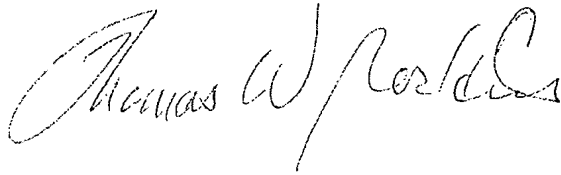
New claims 9 and 10 also avoid these references and are allowable for reasons similar to those espoused above. The references do not describe a sail with a fabric with compression resistant transverse and longitudinal fibers between and bonded to two films, where the longitudinal fibers are parallel to the luff and the transverse fibers are transverse to the luff, and where the transverse and longitudinal fibers are beneath an entire surface of the sail. There is no suggestion to provide compressions resistant fibers beneath an entire surface of the sail as claimed.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas W. Perkins".

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